

Charter

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PM2.5 NAAQS IMPLEMENTATION WORKGROUP

1. PURPOSE

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has created a workgroup to provide input and explore approaches for implementing the 2006 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particulate matter with a diameter less than or equal to 2.5 microns (PM2.5). The state must submit a plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by spring 2011 that details how the state plans to ensure that the PM2.5 NAAQS are attained and maintained in Iowa.

The DNR has requested and relied on stakeholder input in the past when implementing new air quality programs and standards. This approach has been formalized with House File 2418, which will be codified in Iowa Code 455B.134(14). Provisions of the legislation require the DNR to submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1, 2011 with recommendations for controlling PM2.5 emissions, and precursors of PM2.5, to prevent exceedances of the PM2.5 NAAQS.

2. Background:

The EPA created a PM2.5 NAAQS in 1997 in order to protect public health. In 2006, EPA increased the stringency of the 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS based on the latest public health studies and scientific data.

Particles that are less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter are easily inhaled deep into the lungs where they may accumulate, react, be cleared, or absorbed. Scientific studies have linked particle pollution, especially fine particles, with a series of significant health problems, including: increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing, aggravated asthma; development of chronic bronchitis; nonfatal heart attacks; and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Current measurements of PM2.5 concentrations across the state indicate that even in rural areas of the state PM2.5 concentrations can be high on some days, with many locations in urban areas frequently measuring PM2.5 concentrations in excess of the PM2.5 NAAQS. The stringency of the revised PM2.5 NAAQS, combined with high monitored values statewide means that many businesses, organizations, government bodies, and members of the general public will have to play a role in identifying reasonable approaches to regulating PM2.5 statewide.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities:

It is anticipated that the workgroup will:

- a. review the current regulatory requirements and recommend to the DNR any revisions as may be appropriate;
- b. advise the DNR of program areas, guidance, procedures, and policies that should be updated;
- c. identify additional information that is needed to implement the new standard and advise on the approaches and efforts that may be necessary to provide the required information; and
- d. advise the DNR of any adverse public health, welfare, social, economic, or energy effects which may result from various strategies for implementing the new standard.

It is expected that achievement of these objectives and scope of activities will provide implementation recommendations that will protect public health while fostering a stable business climate.

4. Description of Workgroup Duties:

The duties of the workgroup are solely advisory in nature and are limited to providing the DNR with recommendations that will assist in the implementation of the PM2.5 NAAQS. Recommendations from the workgroup do not obligate the DNR to a particular course of action.

5. Official(s) to Whom the Committee Reports:

The workgroup will submit advice and recommendations and reports to the Chief of the Air Quality Bureau of the DNR.

6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support:

The DNR will be responsible for administrative support. Within DNR, this support will be provided by the Air Quality Bureau (aqb).

7. Estimated Time Commitment and Meeting Attendance:

To maintain continuity all workgroup members are asked to commit to attending all workgroup meetings. A designated alternate should attend meetings that the designated primary workgroup member is unable to attend. Meetings are planned for June 9; June 23; July 8; August 5; September 2; October 7; and November 4, 2010.

There are no limitations to the number of members who may participate on the workgroup.

The workgroup's membership will be composed of, but is not limited to, representatives of industry and business, academia, agribusiness, regulatory organizations, environmental organizations, health disciplines, transportation planning organizations, county and municipal government agencies, and the general public.

Workgroup members will be expected to represent their organization's interests and concerns. Designated alternate workgroup members should have the same level of knowledge and expertise as the primary workgroup member and also be able to represent their organization's interests and concerns.

All workgroup meetings and subcommittee meetings will be open to the public. Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the workgroup or subcommittees, or file comments with the DNR.

8. Duration and Termination:

This charter will be in effect until December 1, 2010, at which time it is anticipated that the workgroup will be disbanded. On and after this date, the DNR may consult as needed on a case-by-case basis with workgroup members to facilitate preparation of reports, rulemakings, and legislative proposals.

9. Subcommittees:

Given the complexity of the topic it is anticipated that there will be a need to break into subcommittees as approved by DNR for any purpose consistent with this charter. Subcommittee meetings will occur outside of the workgroup meetings and will be scheduled as needed by the subcommittee members. Such subcommittees may not work independently of the chartered workgroup and must report their recommendations and advice to the workgroup for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered workgroup, nor can they report directly to the DNR.

10. Recordkeeping:

The DNR must maintain records of the workgroup, which will include agendas, presentations, technical information posted on the DNR Website, documents and reports with recommended actions, and other materials generated by the workgroup, subcommittees, or individual members. Chairs for established subcommittees will be responsible for maintaining records of their respective subcommittee meetings, or appointing another member of the subcommittee to do so, and shall provide all records to DNR at anytime upon request of DNR, and at the conclusion of the subcommittee's activities. Workgroup and subcommittee records will constitute public records available for public inspection.